



**For Immediate Release
April 13, 2007**

**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453**

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
TO HOLD EARTH DAY EVENTS**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be celebrating Earth Day with numerous events held at its properties throughout the Commonwealth. Activities range from volunteer clean-ups to hikes, live animal demonstrations and music. All are welcome to attend!

Earth Day events will start in the week leading up to Earth Day (Sunday, April 22), and will continue through the month of May.

Earth Day began in 1970 as a nationwide public demonstration and “teach-in” on the environment. It has become a worldwide event, both a celebration of the environments in which we live, and a day to reflect on the delicate balance of nature. Grassroots organizations use the day to raise awareness, organize participatory events, and educate people on environmental issues.

A complete list of events is attached

###

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Priscilla E. Geigis, Acting Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

April 16 to April 20 (School Vacation Week)

SCA MassParks AmeriCorps Nature Camp

Kenneth Dubuque State Forest

Rte. 8A, Hawley ~ 413-339-5504

Day camp focusing on exploring the natural world, for local children from grades K-8. Must call to register (413-339-6631). The SCA MassParks AmeriCorps program is sponsored by DCR and the Student Conservation Association.

Kids Spring Vacation Activities

Tuesday, April 17 – Friday, April 20, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Stoneham ~ 617-727-1199

Kids with interest in nature are invited to spend vacation mornings with DCR Staff who will assist participants with 4 out of 8 activities. Take-home activities will be given to those wishing to complete the program, but you may come for as few or as many projects as you wish. Geared to ages 8-12, but friends and siblings are welcome to help out. Adults, please plan to spend the first and last 10 minutes with the group. Kids, dress for the weather. Held at the Botume House Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 21

Eighth Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Charles River Reservation

Boston, Cambridge

This is the largest Earth Day event in Massachusetts, attracting approximately 1,500 volunteers, who pick up trash and clean the riverbank. DCR Acting Commissioner Priscilla Geigis will take part in the speaking program (9:00 – 9:30 a.m.) at the Hatch Shell. DCR co-sponsors the event, which is organized by the Charles River Watershed Association, MassPIRG, the Charles River Conservancy, The Esplanade Association, Charles River Stream Team, the City of Newton and Senator Steven Tolman's Office.

Annual Spring Cleanup of Hemlock Gorge

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Hemlock Gorge Reservation

Needham ~ 617-333-7404

Sponsored by DCR and the Friends of Hemlock Gorge. Help beautify this 23-acre woodland nestled along the banks of the Charles River. Meet at the Hemlock Gorge parking area on Hamilton Place in Needham. Refreshments will be provided.

Harbor Cruise to Thompson Island

Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area

617-727-5290

Celebrate Earth Day with a trip to beautiful Thompson Island. The island's natural features include woods, open fields, a pond, and fifty acres of salt marsh to explore. Co-sponsored by the Volunteers and Friends of Boston Harbor Islands. The cruise departures from both Quincy Shipyard and Central Wharf in Boston. From Quincy: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; From Boston: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tickets and reservations from Harbor Island

Express (617-222-6999): \$19 for adults; \$17 for students, seniors and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands members; and, \$15 for children 3-11. Children under 3 are free.

DCR Ranger-Lead Hike

Breakheart Reservation

Forest Street, Saugus ~ 781-233-0834

Join a DCR Ranger in hiking Breakheart Reservation. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Christopher P. Dunne Visitor Center, 177 Forest Street, off the Lynn Fells Parkway in Saugus. The hike will be moderate, lasting 2 hours, traversing a route over Breakheart Hill and the Saugus River, and through Camp Nihan.

Story Time at Breakheart

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Breakheart Reservation

Forest Street, Saugus ~ 781-233-0834

Join us for a nature themed story, snack, and craft for preschool- and kindergarten-aged children. The free program will be held at the fully accessible Christopher P. Dunne Visitor Center, 177 Forest Street, off the Lynn Fells Parkway in Saugus.

Five Mile Hike

11:00 a.m.

Borderland State Park

259 Massapoag Avenue, Easton / Sharon ~ 508-238-6566

Join Clare Braye for this five-mile hike throughout Borderland's trails. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and a snack. Baby strollers are not recommended. The hike is co-sponsored by DCR and the Friends of Borderland. \$2 parking fee.

Pilgrim Sands Trail Riders Annual Trail Clean-up Day

Freetown-Fall River State Forest

Slab Bridge Road, Assonet ~ 508-644-5522

On this annual clean-up day, projects typically include sprucing up the main area and roadsides of trails. This year, a new and improved self-interpretive trail will be introduced. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Freetown-Fall River State Forest.

Earth Day Cleanup

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

287 Oak Street, Uxbridge ~ 508-278-7604

The Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy (twenty-five tenth and eleventh graders from various high schools throughout the region) will be sprucing up the Canal towpath, assembling of an osprey nesting platform, and other chores as their community service teamwork project. The Southern New England Geocachers community will also be doing trash and roadside cleanup from each of the various trail heads within the Heritage State Park. Both groups will gather together for a lunch in the afternoon.

Vernal Pools Field Work**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon***Willard Brook State Forest**Rte. 119, Ashby & Townsend ~ 978-597-8802*

Get vernal pools certification experience. Come and explore vernal pools, searching for egg masses, fairy shrimp and tadpoles. Help gather the evidence to certify and protect more vernal pools. Some waders will be available, but bring your own if you have them. Meet at Memorial Hall parking lot in Townsend center. Carpools to the vernal pool sites will depart from there. Sponsored by the Friends of Willard Brook State Forest.

Earth Day Service Event**8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.***Stony Brook Reservation**Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury/Hyde Park ~ 617-333-7404*

This beautification effort will include clean-up, walking trail rehabilitation, and painting fire gates. Be sure to wear sturdy footwear, layers, long sleeves and pants. Bring water, sunscreen, and rain gear; work gloves will be provided. Co-sponsored by DCR, City Year, the Dancing Deer Bakery, and the Timberland Company.

Sunday, April 22**Fells Invasive Species Days****11:00 a.m.***Middlesex Fells Reservation**Stoneham ~ 617-727-1199*

Help DCR eradicate invasive plants like garlic mustard, knotweed, bittersweet, etc. Meet at the Botume House, 4 Woodland Road in Stoneham.

Earth Day Geology Hike**10:00 a.m.***Borderland State Park**259 Massapoag Avenue, Easton / Sharon ~ 508-238-6566*

Join Bill Hocking for this ramble through Borderland to see glacial erratics, bog iron, volcanic rock and more. Co-sponsored DCR and Friends of Borderland.

NEMBA Trail Project*Harold Parker State Forest**1951 Turnpike Street (Rte. 114), North Andover ~ 978-686-3391*

The New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) will sponsor a trail maintenance project on the Upper Terry Trail.

Saturday, April 28

Big Bearhole Pond Annual Cleanup

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Massasoit State Park

Middleboro Avenue, Taunton ~ 508-822-7405

The Big Bearhole Association will perform their annual cleanup of the area surrounding Big Bearhole Pond in Massasoit State Park.

Saturday, May 5

Wake Up the Earth Festival

Southwest Corridor Park

Jamaica Plain ~ 617-727-0057

This multicultural festival, now in its 29th year, is a celebration of what can be accomplished when people of all traditions, cultures, ages, and beliefs come together. The festival will include performances, food, arts & crafts vendors, a parade, and more. It will be held near the Stony Brook MBTA station.

Saturday, May 12

Annual Merrimack River Shoreline Cleanup

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Maudslay State Park

Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport ~ 978 465-7223

This year, the annual cleanup event will include cutting back some brush to reopen lost vistas near the prominent house sites and tree plantings. Free refreshments and seedlings will be provided for volunteers.

Saturday, May 26

WBOS Annual Earth Fest Concert

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Hatch Memorial Shell, Esplanade, Boston

This popular annual Earth Day concert and celebration features entertainment and Earth Day-related informational booths sponsored by a variety of agencies and non-profit organizations.

###